The Southern PATRIOT

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Logical Answer

An editorial reprinted from the Arkansas Gazette, August 25, 1948.

The first Negro to enter a state institution of higher learning in the South on equal footing with other students will be enrolled in the Medical College of the University of Arkansas this fall.

This marks an epoch in race annals in the United States, and inevitably it will arouse mixed emotions among Southerners. Some certainly will be outraged at what they regard as a break with tradition. But the majority, we believe, will accept it calmly and philosophically, measuring it against the available alternatives.

Like every other state in the South, Arkansas has been faced with grave problems in meeting its clear obligations to provide adequate educational facilities for its Negro citizens. One solution which has been tried in Texas and elsewhere, lies in the creation of separate but equal institutions. But for a state which is financially unable to provide as well as it wants to for its existing colleges this would entail prohibitive cost. Moreover, there is no guarantee that such a project would long stand under current court interpretations.

The Board of Trustees of the University instead has adopted what seems to us a reasonable and realistic policy. It recognized a year ago that the state is bound to provide college training for every citizen who is qualified to undertake it. Where separate facilities for Negro training exist, segregation will continue to be the policy; where they do not exist, qualified Negro students will be admitted without prejudice to other state institutions.

As a practical matter this restricts Negro attendance at traditionally white institutions to the few who can qualify for admittance to graduate schools of the university, including the Medical College here at Little Rock. As was demonstrated by experience with the Negro student who was admitted to the

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University of Arkansas Medical School Accepts Negro Student

The Medical School of the University of Arkansas has accepted Edith Mae Irby, 20-year old Negro youth of Hot Springs, as a member of the 1948-49 Freshman class.

Miss Irby was accepted after she had qualified by placing 28th in a group of 230 Arkansans who took an aptitude test sponsored by American Medical Colleges. The examination is designed to test the candidates best qualified to become successful doctors.

"She will be part of her class just like any other member", said Dr. H. Clay Chenault, university vice-president in charge of medical education and hospitals. "It is physically impossible in a medical education program, to offer any measure of segregation, especially in the pre-clinical years of a medical school. The situation presents a problem. But the faculty group completely approved her entrance."

Miss Irby was born at Conway, Ark., and was graduated by Langston High School in 1944 and by Knoxville College in 1948 having an average grade of 90.

Asked whether the new policy of the university will be a permanent one, Dr. Chenault said:

"In accordance with the policy of the university Board of Trustees, Negro applicants who are bona fide residents of Arkansas may be considered for entrance in the Medical School. The Board set a precedent when it admitted a Negro to the School of Law at Fayetteville last year."

Eleven other Negroes were rejected as a result of the aptitude test.

The admissions committee which passed on Mis Irby's qualifications is composed of Dr. Carroll Shukers, Dr. Jeff Bank of the Medical School and Dr. M. E. McCaskill of Little Rock.

The action of Trustees of the University of Arkansas in admitting a Negro to the Medical School has done more for democracy than a thousand years of the un-American Activities Committee, or 100 Americanism Committees of the Legion.

By this democratic, forward-looking step Arkansas becomes the first of the 13 Southern states to give equal educational advantages, in one area at least, to its Negro citizens, and takes its place with the border states of Maryland and Delaware in relaxing the color bar in graduate schools.

This step taken by Arkansas is the more praiseworthy because it came voluntarily. The reasonable attitude of the University of Arkansas is in sharp contrast to the stubborn attitude of certain officials in the State of Oklahoma that has kept that State in turmoil for many months.

I do not know what prompted this action. It may well be the Trustees were merely taking the obvious course in the light of Supreme Court decisions and with due regard to considerations of economy. Certainly a State that finds it difficult to provide adequately for one medical school is in no position to finance two. But in this confused world, to follow the course of reason, often is the mark of a courageous as well as a reasonable man. At any rate, whatever the motivation, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas by this action have won for themselves a firm place in history as well as the plaudits of everyone concerned with expanding democracy.

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Logical Answer

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law school at Fayetteville, no grave social problems are likely to result on the graduate level. Both faculty and students of the university accepted the Negro law student without protest; so have the faculty and students of the Medical College and the various medical organizations which were consulted in the current case.

In admitting this Negro to the Medical College on a sole basis of merit—she placed 28th among the hundreds who took the rigorous aptitude tests prescribed by the Association of American Medical Colleges—the Board of Trustees has spiked the guns of the South's constant critics, and of those impatient radicals who seek to batter down the whole institution of segregation at a blow. The contrast between the excellent race relations enjoyed in this state and the unrest in Oklahoma is marked. Oklahoma's recent effort to evade a United States Supreme Court order in regard to admitting a Negro law student to its university by creating a special one-student school has failed, and in so doing has brought on a plague of law suits and dissent among faculty members.

The Board of Trustees of the University, and all of the state officials concerned, have displayed courage and wisdom of a high order in dealing with a difficult situation. They deserve—and we are confident they will receive—the support of the great majority of Arkansas of both races.

"Bull" Conner's Birmingham police have killed two more Negroes, bringing the total to nine in the past four and one-half months. The callous indifference of the police and the community when a Negro life is at stake is the logical end result of segregation.

GOODWILL FOR WHOM?

It seems that Governor Ben Laney of Arkansas lacks a sense of humor. On the day following the announcement that the Board of Trustees had accepted a Negro medical student, the Arkansas Gazette carried a front page picture of the Governor boarding a train to begin a goodwill tour of the West. Before departing to spread the spirit of goodwill in foreign parts, he made his contribution to neighborliness at home by commenting on the case of Miss Irby.

This eminent ambassador of goodwill "could see no grounds for allowing any Negro" to enter the school "at this time . . . Hundreds of white boys who tried to get into the medical school before were told they wouldn't get in because they lacked room. If we had a medical school big enough for everybody, then the Board's action would have been justified."

Perhaps this is unfair to the governor, for "goodwill" in official language these days conveys more of an economic than ethical connotation.

Segregation Laws Held Unconstitutional

Segregation of Mexican American pupils in Texas schools except in the first grade is now illegal under a ruling by Federal Judge Ben Rice. Segregation is permitted in the first grade only where the children are not familiar with the English language but classes in this case must be on the same campus with those for Anglo American children. The judgment was entered in a suit brought by the parents of 22 children of Mexican descent who claimed the Texas segregation laws violated the 14th Amendment.

A few days after the above ruling, the same judge upheld the constitutionality of segregated schools for Negro children.

"There are no significant differences in the cultural and educational abilities of different racial groups." There are no racial,—only cultural differences. Persons, regardless of race, growing up in the same culture with the same basic education wil be alike.

DR. CLIFFORD T. MORGAN, psychiatrist and head of the department of psychology, Johns Hopkins University.

IF AMERICAN MACHINERY COULD TALK

Courtesy Institute for American Democracy, Inc.

State Unemployment Insurance Laws Show Variations

State laws governing unemployment benefits vary considerably. Under our Federal-State system, each State has the authority to determine who shall be covered, how much they shall pay, what benefits shall be provided, under what conditions, and for how long.

Five states outside of the South are now paying a maximum over $25 a week; highest in the South is $20. Florida has the lowest maximum of any state in the Nation, $15.

In non-Southern states the longest duration in which payments are made is 26 weeks; longest in the South is 22 weeks in Kentucky. In other Southern States the maximum period varies from 16 to 20.

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

State	Size of firm (minimum number of employees and/or size of pay roll in a calendar year)	Weekly benefit amount for total unemployment.		Duration in 52-wk. period
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum & Max. Weeks
Ala.	8 in 20 wks.	$ 4.00	$20.00	10 to 20
Ark.	1 in 10 days	5.00	20.00	4 to 16
Fla.	8 in 20 wks.	5.00	15.00	7 plus to 16
Ga.	8 in 20 wks.	4.00	18.00	16
Ky.	4 in 3 quarters preceding year with wages of $50 in each quarter, or 8 in 20 weeks	7.00	20.00	22
La.	4 in 20 wks.	3.00	18.00	7 plus to 20
Miss.	8 in 20 wks.	3.00	20.00	16
N. C.	8 in 20 wks.	4.00	20.00	16
Okla.	8 in 20 wks.	6.00	18.00	6 plus to 20
S. C.	8 in 20 wks.	5.00	20.00	18
Tenn.	8 in 20 wks.	5.00	18.00	20
Tex.	8 in 20 wks.	10.00 for 2 wks.	36.00 for 2 wks.	1 plus to 9 2 wk. per.
Va.	8 in 20 wks.	5.00	20.00	6 to 16

South Loses--West Gains Three Million In Population Shifts

But Excess of Births Over Deaths Enables All Southern States But Four to Show a Net Gain in 1947 Over 1946.

All Southern states continued to lose population through net migration since the end of the war, while the West gained. Total out-migration from the South was 2,996,000; while the net migration into mountain and Pacific states was 2,900,000.

In Mississippi the excess of persons leaving the state over those entering was 384,000.

In spite of this loss from migration all Southern States except four had a net gain in population in 1948 over 1947 due to the excess of births over deaths. Mississippi's population took a net loss of 4 per cent; Kentucky & Oklahoma lost 2.3 per cent; and Arkansas 1.8 per cent.

The South as a whole gained 5.4 per cent, against a national increase of 8.9 per cent; and a gain in the West of 30.4 per cent.

(The following table excludes armed forces overseas but includes armed forces serving in each state).

	July 1, 1947	April 1, 1948	Increase or Decrease to 1947 Number	%
U. S.	143,414,000	131,669,275	11,744,000	8.9
The West	18,107,000	13,883,265	4,224,000	30.4
The South	43,932,000	41,665,901	2,266,000	5.4
Florida	2,328,000	1,897,000	431,000	22.7
Virginia	2,999,000	2,677,773	321,000	12.0
Texas	7,104,000	6,414,824	698,000	10.7
Louisiana	2,544,000	2,363,880	180,000	7.6
Tennessee	3,091,000	2,915,841	175,000	6.0
N. Carolina	3,698,800	3,571,623	126,000	3.5
S. Carolina	1,951,000	1,899,000	51,000	2.7
Georgia	3,138,000	3,123,723	15,000	0.5
Alabama	2,834,000	2,832,961	1,000	
Arkansas	1,913,000	1,949,387	-36,000	-1.8
Oklahoma	2,284,000	2,336,454	-53,000	-2.3
Kentucky	2,780,000	2,845,627	-65,000	-2.3
Mississippi	2,096,000	2,183,796	-88,000	-4.0

Virginia & Kentucky Improve Child Labor Laws

Virginia and Kentucky this year improved their child labor laws bringing ing them more into line with the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Both states established a basic minimum age of 16 for general employment,, bringing the number of states up to 20 that have this standard.

The former age in both states was 14 and in Kentucky did not apply to work outside school hours while in Virginia children 12 and over were permitted to work ouside school hours in fruit and vegetable canneries.

Both new laws set a 16-year minimum age for employment at any time in manufacturing or mechanical establishments. Virginia specifically mentioned commercial canneries thus eliminating its former cannery exemption. For other employment both States set a general minimum of 16 for work during school hours and 14 outside of school hours if they are high school graduates or incapable of profiting by further instruction.

Employment certificates are required up to 18 years of age, instead of 16 as formerly.

The new laws sets a maximum 40-hour week for boys and girls up to 18 years of age, improves the night-work regulations, and limits the number of hours of labor of children attending school and working outside school hours.

Both States, for the first time, require a 30-minute meal period for minors up to 18.

Eighteen is now the minimum age for employment in a number of hazardous occupations in Virginia and Kentucky. The minimum in Kentucky formerly was 16.